

replaced him, all have the ability to look at the State programs because of flexibility that was put in the system when the Deficit Reduction Act passed in December of 2005. Again, the much maligned Deficit Reduction Act gave the tools to these State leaders so that they can look at doing these innovative plans in their States to provide coverage for their populations who are uninsured. And after all, again, one of the great things about the United States is the States can serve as laboratories. We don't necessarily have to change everything for the whole country, we can see how it works in a given State, and to the extent that it is helpful, we can expand the program.

□ 2230

If we find it wasn't helpful, we won't expand the program. But it is one of those great things that our Founding Fathers envisioned, that the States would be great laboratories for needed social change to occur in this country.

One of the other things that I didn't cover earlier because I wasn't sure if time would permit it, I do obviously need to say a word about the medical liability system in this country.

My home State of Texas, again, did tackle this issue in 2003 and did pass a State law that capped non-economic damages, much along the lines of the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1975 that was passed in California. Our State of Texas picked up that concept, modernized it for the 21st century, and those caps on non-economic damages, instead of just being one realm of non-economic damages, the cap is trifurcated, \$250,000 thousand cap on the doctor, \$250,000 thousand cap on the hospital, \$250,000 thousand cap on the on a nursing home or second hospital, if one is involved.

The critical thing about this is it has brought insurance costs for medical liability insurance down by 20 percent in my home State of Texas, and, remember, medical liability costs were going up by 25 to 30 percent a year prior to the passage of that law.

So it has had an immediate and beneficial effect on physicians in Texas. And one of the unintended beneficiaries was the mid-sized, community-based, not-for-profit hospital who self-insured. Those hospitals have seen a significant reduction in the amount of moneys that they had to put toward medical liability, and, as a consequence, those are dollars that they are investing in capital improvements, nurses' salaries, the very things you would want your medium-sized, not-for-profit community hospital to do if they had the flexibility to do so.

I have legislation that I have drafted that bases off the Texas plan. I think it is reasonable legislation. In our budget resolution that the Republicans had, the savings, and this was scored by CBO as a savings, at a time we are looking for ways to save money in the healthcare system to pay for other things, it is almost unconscionable to

walk away from that \$8 to \$10 billion in savings that CBO scored this particular legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I see that the hour, it goes so quickly when you get down here to talk about these things. I will wrap up.

I do want to point out that Americans, for all of the criticism that we have, there was an article in The New York Times published October 2006, Tyler Cowan, who writes, "When it comes to medical innovation, the United States is the world leader. In the past 10 years, 12 Nobel Prizes in medicine have gone to American-born scientists working in the United States, three to foreign-born scientists working in the United States, and just seven have gone to researchers outside of the country."

That is what we need to preserve, protect and defend. That is why these issues are so important for us to face in this Congress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CUMMINGS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. ISRAEL (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of inspecting tornado damage.

Mr. TIAHRT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and May 8 and 9 on account of inspecting tornado damage.

Mr. HULSHOF (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and May 8 on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ELLISON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SHAYS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, May 14.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, May 8.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and May 8, 9, 10, and 11.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her re-

marks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., for morning hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1511. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 04-12, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

1512. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 06-01, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

1513. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1514. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Dell L. Dailey, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1515. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General William G. Boykin, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1516. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Bryan D. Brown, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1517. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement Vice Admiral Stanley R. Szemborski, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1518. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1519. A letter from the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the management and adequacy of biometrics programs pursuant to Conference Report 109-702, that accompanies the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.